

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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R 230330Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7049

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 2226

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, NZ

SUBJECT: ANZUS TRAINING EXERCISES AND PERSONNEL EXCHANGES

REF: WELLINGTON 2168

SUMMARY. GNZ APPARENTLY HAVING DIFFICULTIES WORKING OUT MILITARY EXERCISES AND PERSONNEL EXCHANGES WITH GOA, WHICH THEY WISH TO DO BEFORE TURNING TO U.S. END SUMMARY.

1. I RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH SECY DEF ROBERTSON 23 AUGUST. HE REPLIED: BECAUSE OF GEOGRAPHIC AND STRATEGIC PROXIMITY, GNZ TRYING SORT OUT THEIR PROGRAMS FIRST WITH GOA AND THEN WITH USG.

2. HOWEVER, HE SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR GNZ TO COOPERATE ON THIS WITH GOA DEFENSE OFFICIALS WHO, WHILE FRIENDLY "DON'T HAVE A DEFENSE POLICY." HE SAID HE ASKED MILLER, HEAD OF AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES, WHO NOW IN NZ WHAT GOA DEFENSE POLICY WAS AND MILLER ANSWERED, "IT IS A WHITLAM POLICY WHICH HASN'T BEEN STAFFED OUT." THUS IT IS PROVING DIFFICULT TO WORK OUT ANY PROGRAM FOR MILITARY EXERCISES AND PERSONNEL EXCHANGES.

3. ROBERTSON CONTINUED HE HAD EMPHASIZED TO GOA OFFICIALS THAT NZ MILITARY DEFENSE HAD AUTHORIZATION FOR INCREASED EXERCISES/

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EXCHANGES WITH GOA AND IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR GNZ TO MAINTAIN

PROFESSIONAL MILITARY COMPETENCE WITHIN ANZUS CONTEXT. IT WAS HIS HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HOLD AN EXERCISE IN AUSTRALIA EARLY IN 1974 INVOLVING ONE U.S., ONE AUSTRALIAN AND ONE NZ BATTALION. HE ALSO HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HOLD A SIMILAR EXERCISE IN NZ EARLY IN 1975.

4. HE WAS RECEIVING EVASIVE ANSWERS FROM HIS AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITE NUMBER, SIR ARTHUR TANGUY. HE ALSO HAD IMPRESSION GOA DEFENSE BUDGET WAS REDUCED AND NOTED THEY HAD CUT BACK ON THEIR PURCHASE OF 37 NZ MADE HAMILTON TRAINERS AND ON G MADE "HARBOR BOATS." GOA HAD UNDERTAKEN TO BUY THESE TO HELP REDRESS NZ'S UNFAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE WITH AUSTRALIA.

5. HE WAS PLANNING TO INFORM TANGUY, THAT GNZ WILL TURN TO U.S. FOR TRAINING AND EXCHANGES AND MIGHT BUY AMMUNITION FROM SINGAPORE RATHER THAN AUSTRALIA SINCE SINGAPORE AMMUNITION 20 PERCENT CHEAPER.

COMMENTS:

1. I BELIEVE ROBERTSON IS ACTING UNDER CABINET ORDERS TO STRENGTHEN MILITARY COOPERATION AND POLICY PLANNING WITH THEIR AUSTRALIAN NEIGHBORS BEFORE TURNING TO U.S. THIS WOULD FOLLOW FROM KIRK'S POLICY, WOULD GIVE KIRK SOMEWHAT STRONGER HAND WITH U.S. AND WOULD DAMPEN LEFTWING CRITICS WHO, IF GNZ CARRIED OUT EXERCISES/EXCHANGES WITH USG BUT NOT GOA, WOULD SAY GNZ WAS CONTINUING TO BE MILITARY SATELLITE OF U.S.

2. I BELIEVE ROBERTSON WANTS MORE TIME TO PLAY HIS HAND OUT WITH GOA AND WE SHOULD LET HIM DO SO.  
WOOD

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